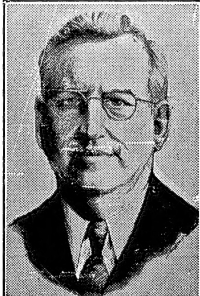




Labor Presses For Price Control

Labor Presidents



A. R. MOSHER

PERCY R. BENGOUGH,
C.B.E.

PERSONAL STUFF

BY
E. E. R.

It has just been announced that the United States, Britain and France have agreed to advance 50 million dollars to Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia to assist him to strengthen his country's defences and thus provide greater security to the "free" countries against possible aggression by Soviet Russia. The use of that word "free" is confusing to a great many people. Yugoslavia is "free" only from the domination of the Cominform. The government of Yugoslavia is a Communist dictatorship, only slightly less of a police state than Soviet Russia and its subject countries. The people of Yugoslavia are not "free". The country is not a democracy. And certainly Spain and Portugal are not "free". It is no wonder, therefore, that the Communists and the people in the Balkans call "partisans of the Kremlin" make such good propaganda use of such terms as "The Free World".

But the very fact that both Spain and Yugoslavia are being used—I use that word advisedly—by the chief partners of the anti-

(Continued on page 8)

Pension Only Worth \$21.60 Now

By PERCY R. BENGOUGH,
C.B.E., President, Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

On behalf of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, it is again my privilege to extend to the workers and people generally our friendly greetings and good wishes on this 1951 Labor Day. This is the day set apart and recognized as a day of celebration for all who labor.

Organized labor, campaigned to have this first Monday in September as Labor Day almost sixty years ago. For that reason, we naturally have strong sentimental and kindly feelings for this day. Throughout this great country many thousands of workers will today march in parades and take part in Labor Day celebrations. Full well the workers of Canada realize that they have reason to celebrate. None love their country more than those who have done the building. All that can be seen in our cities, our railroads and highways; our churches, schools, universities and hydro developments, all that makes modern living possible, is a result of applied labor, and we look forward to the day when we, with the rest of the people in this world, can apply full labor efforts to constructive purposes, building only for living improvements, for bigger, better and happier lives without fear of wars, unemployment, sickness and want.

We know our own freedoms are not safe as long as there are millions of people throughout the world in slave camps. There are more today living under inhuman and despotic dictatorships without any vestige of freedom as we understand it.

International Body

It is with such knowledge and beliefs that the organized labor movement in Canada has joined with the Free Trade Union Movements of the World in forming the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Through the medium of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the fight is being carried on to curtail the spread of Communism and all other forms of de-

(Continued on page 8)

Dividend Payments Away Up Over 1950

OTTAWA (CPA) — Dividend payments from the treasuries of Canadian corporations will total over \$320 million during the first eight months of 1951, according to figures published in the financial page of the Toronto Globe and Mail recently. This compares with the \$277 million level reached during the same months of 1950.

Labour Day Message

From M. J. COLDWELL, M.P., C.C.F. National Leader

IT HAS become apparent that the current difficulties in the international situation are not going to be resolved overnight. Indeed, most of the governments in the free world have undertaken long-term defence programs, based on the supposition that international tension may not subside for some time.

In view of this prospect, the major problem confronting the working population of Canada becomes quite clear: To execute as expeditiously as possible our defence program, and at the same time to safeguard those hard-won victories of labor that are the first to become threatened in difficult times like the present.

While it is necessary that all of us be willing to make sacrifices if the defence of our country is to be materialized, it must never be forgotten that the present status achieved by labor has been through collective bargaining, a democratic right as sacred to the twentieth century as freedom of speech was to the eighteenth and nineteenth. This right cannot, therefore, be destroyed without defeating one of the chief purposes for which we are undertaking our defence, namely, the preservation of our democratic rights.

The C.C.F. party has always recognized this and has done its best, whenever the opportunity has presented itself, to strengthen this democratic right of trade unionism. For example, as recently as the last session of parliament, we urged that the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act be amended to require an employer or employers to bargain collectively with a group of associated unions representing the employees. As the act now stands, it is possible for the employers to divide unions, representing the same employees, against themselves. This actually happened in the railway strike a year ago.

But, in addition to this kind of danger which threatens organized labor, there are other and no less serious problems resulting directly from the current international situation that menace all the gains labor has made to date. For example, the continual spiralling of prices, with no check in sight, can wipe out these gains just as effectively as inroads made on labor's right to bargain collectively.

It was with this in mind that the C.C.F. party persistently urged the government during the recent session to adopt a system of price controls, and subsidies where necessary, to roll back inflationary prices on basic commodities. We advocated this policy with the knowledge that during the years 1941-1945, when our country was engaged in a major war, price controls prevented the cost-of-living index from rising more than four points. In one year after the beginning of the Korean war, however, the cost-of-living index has already risen by twenty points, and our defence program has barely got under way.

Inflation, as well as its opposite, deflation, can undo so quickly what labor has fought so long and so hard to achieve. The C.C.F. shall continue, therefore, to press the government to concede the necessary price controls and subsidies when parliament reconvenes in the fall.

Carrying The Torch

By Robert P. Rintoul, President, Alberta Federation of Labor

IT IS A privilege of which I am very proud, to be able on the eve of this Labor Day, 1951, to extend warmest greetings and bring a brief message to all of our friends in this great labor movement.

Looking over the records of the past number of years, I believe and am firmly convinced that we all should be very proud of our movement and all of those things which we have, so dearly won.

Looking to the future with determination and our heads high, let each one of us be prepared to carry the torch to where it is needed and to eventually see that things will come much easier. Surely, the term "labor" does not mean an eternal struggle for our very existence and these things which should rightfully be ours.

Whilst labor has come a long way since the time of the sweat shop, and the secret meetings of little groups of workers who banded together for their mutual good, and whilst many of our numbers have taken part in that perilous climb—labor still has a long way to go—into an epoch when working



ROBERT P. RINTOUL

men and women will enjoy full freedom from economic cares and when governments in a free land will go more than think of curbing the unions that they would think of curbing the churches, the universities, the hospitals or the great charity organizations.

Toward this final achievement each and every one of us MUST contribute. Let us begin at once by accepting the immediate future challenge—fighting and unfair.

Want Curb On Canada's Profiteers

By A. R. MOSHER

President, Canadian Congress of Labor

For many years, the enjoyment of the one annual holiday set aside as a recognition of labor's contribution to society, has been clouded by the presence or fear of war. From every viewpoint, war is a frightful and utterly barbaric method of dealing with international disputes, but, apart from this aspect of it, war or preparation for war, whether for defence or aggression, is a millstone around the necks of the workers in their struggle for improved living standards. Organized labor, for this reason, if no other, must continue to press for greater recognition in the determination of government policy and administration of any war or defence effort in which the nation is engaged.

The Canadian Congress of Labor has no illusions regarding the dangers involved should we not make adequate provisions for defence against Communistic aggression. . . . We are, therefore, deeply concerned with the fact that far too little consideration is being given to the necessity for the strengthening of our defences against propaganda at home.

Probably no one condition could provide a more fertile soil for subversive activities than the unprecedented rise in the cost of living in Canada since the war, and the hardships imposed upon such a large number of its common people. Whatever the cause of these high prices may be, the time has long since passed when the situation can be safely ignored.

Month after month since the war there has been a rise in the cost-of-living index, and, at July 3, it had reached the unprecedented figure of 187.6, mostly due to increases in food prices. As a result, an almost intolerable burden has been placed upon workers and their families. During the war, in spite of acute shortages, it was possible to hold down the cost-of-living index, rising only 3.6 per cent from November, 1941, to August, 1945. This indicates that price control is effective, and the failure of the

(Continued on page 7)

C.C.F. Office Closed Sept. 17-24

With the staff on holiday, C.C.F. provincial headquarters at Woodsworth House will be closed from September 17 to 24. Urgent mail will be attended to, but otherwise routine office activity will be suspended for that week.

No Time For Complacency

By ROBERT ATKIN, President, Industrial Federation of Labor of Alberta

Active in the organized Labor movement as well as in the C.C.F. for many years, People's Weekly readers will recall that in 1939 Mr. Atkin won first prize in a province-wide contest sponsored by Rev. Warwick Kelloway, then residing in Calgary. Now in the Locomotive Foreman's office at the C.N.R. Shops, he was loaned by the C.N.R. to the U.S. Army Regulating Station, War Department, for four years in connection with controlling and diverting traffic for the building of the Alaska Highway.

TO MANY individuals, Labor Day is just another holiday and has no particular significance, but to others, and especially those who have been connected with the Labor movement for some time, the celebration of Labor Day means a great deal more than just another holiday—it means a memorial day to those who have died fighting in the interests of Labor.

It is a day when we ought to take stock of what has been accomplished over the years. Quite recently while attending the Educational Union Institute at Red Deer, which was sponsored by the Industrial Federation of Labor of Alberta in co-operation with the Canadian Congress of Labor, I was privileged to see a very inspiring movie entitled, "With These Hands," which depicted in a factual and very realistic manner the garment workers' struggle for union recognition and better working conditions over a period of about 40 years. The advancement made in that period of time is startling to us who have now become accustomed to bargaining rights, the 40-hour work week, holidays with pay, etc. The movie illustrated how workers and their families went hungry, lost their homes, with many dying before the struggle for union recognition was won and improved conditions obtained.

Recalls Early Days

As a boy, I can recollect being required to work 12-hour shifts seven nights a week in the steel mills of Sheffield, England, during the First World War, and the aged people of that period would tell of having to work in the collieries under 10 years of age.

Workers in the early days had no union representation and could be dismissed often without just cause at the whim of the foreman



ROBERT ATKIN

in charge. Today, workers in all major industries are organized in unions and can appeal to the union representatives in the event of being unjustly dealt with by the employer, to have their case presented to the management for adjustment.

Owe Much to Pioneers

Yes, Labor has accomplished much over the past thirty or forty years, and we should give credit to those social-minded workers who devoted themselves to the cause of Labor and fought hard battles so that we might enjoy better conditions.

It has recently been reported that only about 27% of the workers throughout Canada are organized. If that is true, there is no time or room for complacency. The unorganized must be organized in unions so that they also may enjoy the benefits that can be obtained by the collective effort of

workers. I would appeal to all workers who do not as yet belong to any union to seriously consider joining a union; or, if there is no union in your establishment, discuss with your fellow-workers the possibilities of forming a union, in order that you may enjoy more security and better working conditions.

The progressive industrial development and concentration of industry in Canada today is a far cry from the small handicraft shops where the employer and employee had a personal contact and regard for each other, and indicates the need for concentration of power of the workers in strong unions not only to protect the interests of the workers but to maintain the democracy we now have.

Monopolies

We already have evidence on all sides of monopolies, where concerted efforts of certain industries are made to maintain high prices of commodities uneconomically and to the disadvantage of workers, and the natural assumption is that the wheels of commerce operate for profit without regard to the welfare of the workers, who actually produce the goods that are sold: This I would say is a challenge to our higher schools of learning, particularly in the field of economics, to suggest a cure for the ills of our present society and yet preserve a democracy.

Canada is a rich land, literally flowing with milk and honey, not to mention oil, natural gas, minerals, etc., and I would appeal to all who are social minded to join with and assist Labor to obtain a just proportion of the wealth produced so that the workers may enjoy a more abundant living.

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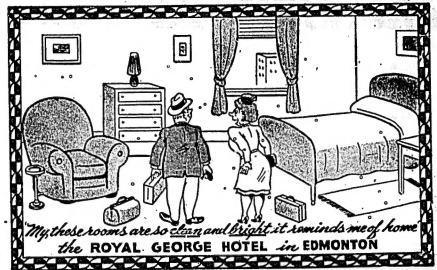
H. G. Field P. M. Owen

Edmonton CCF Women Meet Monday, Sept. 10

First fall meeting of the Edmonton Women's C.C.F. Club will be held on Monday, Sept. 10, at 8:15 p.m., at Woodsworth House, 10140 - 107 Street. A full attendance is urged to organize the fall activities.

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President R. Atkin
Executive Sec. W. Orr

EDMONTON

Phone 74048

CALGARY

Phone 27860

In The Interest Of LABOUR MANAGEMENT And THE PUBLIC

The Department of Industries and Labour has a necessary office to fulfil. Through its close association with Labour and Management and a general knowledge of current conditions it is able to act as an interested but unbiased intermediary.

The object of Labour and Management and the Public is the same.—To provide more people with more things. In order to reach this goal every practical method of maintaining industrial harmony is given consideration.

Several branches of the Department take their place in helping to maintain stability in industry.

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APPRENTICESHIP BOARD
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GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR

Hon. Dr. J. L. Robinson,
Minister.

J. E. Oberholtzer,
Deputy Minister.

The benefits of progressive labour legislation administered for the benefit of both labour and management are nowhere more apparent than here in Alberta.

To prosper, Alberta must have stable and enterprising industries. In these times of rapid development it is apparent to everyone that labour needs a dynamic industry and that industry needs an efficient and conscientious labour force. One cannot function without the other.

In order that such a state of affairs can exist there must be good relations between the two. We in Alberta have been exceedingly fortunate in this respect. In fact we have boasted, and I feel with justification, that we have a record of industrial harmony second to none.

A factor which I believe has helped to produce this state of affairs is the Labour-Management Conference, the second of which has recently been held.

Labour groups represented at these Conferences have shown an earnest desire to meet with representatives of Management in order to obtain an understanding of each other's problems.

The objectives and views expressed at these Conferences are of great value to the Department of Industries and Labour, both in the drafting of recommended changes to The Alberta Labour Act and the impartial administration of the Act.

I want to congratulate and thank the membership of the Alberta Federation of Labour for the leading role they assumed in these discussions but I would like to stress to all concerned that good relations come from mutual confidence, understanding and co-operation.

DR. J. L. ROBINSON,
Minister of Industries and Labour.

Bonnie Doon C.C.F. To Meet Wed., Sept. 12

Bonnie Doon C.C.F. Club will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Stoehr, 8308 - 93 Avenue, on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 8:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

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September 1, 1951

CONSCIOUS BETRAYAL

IN THESE days of runaway prices, when the average family is finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, but in which Canadian big business is rolling up profits on a scale heretofore unknown, there are many Canadians who are demanding some form of price control. But there has been no stronger argument for price controls uttered by anyone than that expressed in the following words:

Rising prices unless controlled will make it more costly and therefore more difficult to finance the war. Rising prices, unchecked, will spread confusion and uncertainty in industry and trade. They will hinder production and the proper distribution of supplies. They will make the cost of living rise more rapidly than wages and salaries. The value of savings will be materially lessened. The result would be hardship to nearly everyone, and hardship in very unequal measure.

Rising prices—a rising cost of living—do not have the same effect on all households. The smaller the family income and the larger the family, the more serious the hardship imposed. For those with small incomes, rising prices of clothing, food and other necessities may mean serious hardship, while for those with larger incomes only luxuries and small comforts may have to be given up.

Rising prices thus serve to aggravate the inequalities in society, and to throw the heaviest burdens on those least able to bear them. Wartime experience has shown that prices rise faster than wages or salaries, and bear more heavily still on those who live on small pensions or life savings.

The truth is that all but an insignificant minority of the population would be worse off as a result of rising prices, if prices were permitted to rise unchecked, and, in general, the relatively poor would suffer more than the relatively well-to-do. Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King made the above statement on October 18, 1941, announcing the imposition of price control. No words uttered by the late Prime Minister have been proved truer. Price controls did prevent the bad conditions pictured. The removal of controls and the return to unrestricted profiteering have brought the evils he so graphically described.

The fact that the certain result of the lack of controls was so clear to Mr. King, and his government, made their removal an unforgivable, conscious betrayal of the interests of the Canadian people. As Mr. King predicted would be the case, "all but an insignificant minority of the population" are "worse off as a result of rising prices." But the insignificant minority has had its way.

NEED POLITICAL POWER

LABOR'S holiday in 1951 finds the Labor Movement facing problems as serious and perplexing as any it has ever faced. All the efforts to obtain a fair share for the workers and their families of the greatly increased production of the nation have been thwarted by inflationary prices. Since 1946 only a very few workers' families have improved their real incomes. Many are worse off than they were five years ago.

This situation is emphasizing again the necessity of something more than industrial organization. Unions have never been stronger than now, and it is a good thing they are or conditions for the workers would be much worse. But lack of political power is allowing the gains achieved by unionization to be pilfered away from the workers by the failure of governments to control unprecedented profiteering.

INFLATION

A Challenge To Labor

By William Irvine

Director of C.C.F. Organisation

THIS Labor Day finds the working people of Canada in a stronger position than ever before in our history. Never before were the unions so well organized, and never before has there been such a measure of co-operation among the three branches of organized labor, namely the A.F. of L., C.C.L., and the

Catholic Unions. These unions have closed their ranks in the industrial arena and stand shoulder to shoulder on the day-to-day issues which challenge the living standards of the wage earners.

Much is due to the wisdom of

the experienced leaders of our labor unions for the influential and respected position which the Labor Movement now holds in our national life. Men like Mosher, Bengough and Conroy have not only earned the confidence of the organizations they lead, but are held in high respect by employers with which they bargain and fight, and with governments which sometimes take a part in settlement of disputes. Sanity on the one hand and firmness in holding a course toward their adopted objectives have been the outstanding characteristics of these leaders through the years. These men, while ardent in their efforts to improve the living standards of the organizations they lead, have constantly kept in view the national

interest as well as that of their unions.

The greatest grievance of labor today is the continual shrinkage in the purchasing power of wages. Prices are away above the tardy steps of wages; every wage increase affords but an excuse on the part of manufacturers and business men generally to boost prices so that the worker is left in a worse position in relation to living costs after a wage increase than he was before. No one knows better than labor the futility of trying to whip up the tortoise of labor to catch the hare of prices. Still labor must hold the line of its resistance, to unbridled profit greed or be in danger of losing the hard-won improvements made during generations of struggle.

Canadian labor has made every effort to get the government to establish price control in the national interest. The government has resisted labor's importunity until the wild unchecked gallop of prices has threatened the national economy.

Forced to Ask More Pay

From now henceforth labor is likely to be forced to demand further wage increases. When that happens, labor will be charged with disloyalty to the national interests and even those who have been fighting Communism in the labor ranks will be themselves branded as Communists with a view to dis-

credit labor's claim. It will be well for the people of Canada to remember, if and when that time comes, what labor leaders have tried to do to stem inflationary floods and to place the blame for any disruption which may come on those who are responsible, namely the government.

When labor co-operates in the use of their ballots as they now do in industrial disputes they will have cleared the second hurdle in their historic struggle.

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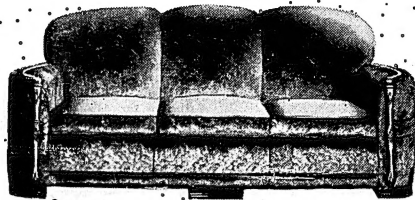
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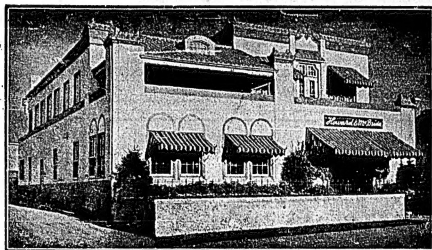
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Calgary Planning Bazaar, Study Clubs

The July meeting of the women's section of the Calgary C.C.F. was held at the home of Mrs. Fairy Walker. A display of lovely aprons, convened by Mrs. Lehmiesinger, assures success in that department for the October bazaar. A discussion period and refreshments concluded a successful meeting.

The August meeting of the Women's C.C.F. Club, at the home of Miss MacDonald and Miss Reid, was concerned mostly with plans for study clubs for the winter. Lovely knitted things and various other articles were turned in for the October bazaar. Your correspondent was delighted with the attendance of so many young members—new ones from the coast and local enthusiasts foretell a busy winter—P.W.



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Want Curb

(Continued from page 1)

government to re-impose price control is, therefore, in my opinion, a very serious error.

Legislation Is Necessary

Surely it is not beyond the wisdom of the Canadian people to find a true balance between the cost of production and distribution and the price we pay, and to put into effect whatever regulation may be necessary to ensure that labor and capital, producers and consumers, receive an equitable share of those necessities of life we can provide without unfair or undue profit to any.

Labor will not ask for more than its fair share of the things it produces, nor will it complain about any sacrifice it must make to meet a threat of war. It does, however, object most strenuously to lower standards of living, which are due to excessive profits in industry, and the failure of the federal government to take adequate steps to control prices.

It is significant that the four large labor organizations in Canada, including the two national Labor Congresses, the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labor, and the Dominion Joint Legislative Committee of the Railway Transportation Brotherhoods, made a joint presentation to the government in February last, urging price and rent control. The unanimity of policy in this respect reflected, in my opinion, the views of the Canadian people as a whole, and I am sure that in spite of the failure of the government to take appropriate action, the efforts of the labor movement in this respect are appreciated by the people. Labor is earning and obtaining recognition as an important factor in public opinion, and it hopes, with the co-operation of other Canadian institutions, to make a constantly greater contribution toward the well-being of the Canadian people.

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Greetings to

Organized Labor

AND THE

People's Weekly

**UNITED MINE
WORKERS OF
AMERICA**

DISTRICT 18

Personal Stuff

(Continued from page 1)

Communist alliance has little or nothing to do with what is or what is not "The Free World". The cold, practical fact is that the governments, and people, of the democratic nations believe that it is necessary to build defences against militant, expansionist Communist power and are prepared to use whatever weapons and bulwarks and bases of action which are considered valuable for the purpose. We hear it said that the United States capitalists want to be allied with Fascist Franco. Do they want to be allied with Communist Tito? If Soviet Russia or her satellites attack Yugoslavia and the members of the Atlantic Pact nations come to her defence, it won't be for the purpose of preserving "free" Yugoslavia. It will be in support of one of their food-blocks against Soviet expansion. When the phrase "The Free World" is used so loosely, either in unthinking rhetoric or in malignant ridicule, so to make it appear that it includes Fascist Spain and Communist Yugoslavia, it is used too loosely.

Pension

(Continued from page 1)

having dictatorships. The frontiers of fear and war are being pushed back and the conditions of the people in under-privileged countries are being gradually but surely improved. However, we must not permit ourselves to be lulled into a sense of false security. The imperialist aims of Communist dictatorship is a definite threat to all people who value freedom. The

fact that there are 175 known penal labor camps with over fourteen million people in abject slavery in the countries behind the so-called Iron Curtain compels concern on the part of all who seek happiness and freedom. The world is too small to ignore the plight of the workers in the great under-developed areas.

Great Task

A great task is before the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in organizing the workers and inspiring respect for the individual throughout the depressed countries and the labor movement in Canada has to take its full share of the responsibility for encouraging and assisting in that work.

Since last Labor Day the organizations comprising the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada have made great gains, both in numbers and effectiveness. We were honored by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in accepting an invitation from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and holding their regular quarterly meeting in August in the city of Montreal, an evidence that close fraternal understanding prevails between the two largest and most representative trade union centres in the United States and Canada.

Pension Only Worth \$21.60

Our efforts to improve our social laws during the past year have not been outstanding. While far short of what is needed, improvements have been made in the old age pension regulations. However, the increase in the amount of the pension has been considerably reduced as a result of the high and uncontrolled prices of commodities. At this time, it looks fairly definite

that pensions will be paid to every one of seventy years and over without having to prove they are destitute in a land of plenty. This is a definite improvement that has taken organized labor many years of effort to secure.

The increase in the monthly payments to \$40.00 would, under normal conditions, also be a great improvement, but with our present-day dollar worth only 54 cents, the \$40.00 is actually worth \$21.60 when buying foodstuffs and household commodities. An increase of one dollar and sixty cents is not enough to warrant any boasting of the improvements made or for the recipients to become elated. We had hoped to have seen the pension set at \$60.00, which would have given a buying value of \$32.40 and could not be considered an exorbitant amount. Between now and next Labor Day we will work and hope for price controls and a reduction in the cost of living.

Margaret Coldwell To Marry D. Carman

Many members of the C.C.F. will be interested in the announcement of the forthcoming marriage of Miss Margaret Coldwell, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Coldwell, to Mr. Douglas Carman, who is a distant relative of the late J. S. Woodsworth. The quiet wedding will take place at All Saints' Anglican Church, Ottawa, on Sept. 29. Mr. Carman is a scientist engaged in the National Research laboratories at Ottawa. On their return from a brief honeymoon in the Laurentians, the newlyweds will reside in Ottawa.

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LABOR DIRECTORY

Look Here for Information Regarding Officers, Meetings, etc., of Trade Unions and Other Labor Organizations in the Province. EDMONTON

Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 1325, Edmonton, Alta., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, 11425 99 Street, President G. T. Greenwood, 11425 99 Street; Fin. Sec., L. D. Pollard, 9328 101A Ave.; Treasurer, J. A. S. Smith, 11832 96A Street; Business Agent, J. P. Craig, Phone 21766, Labor Hall.

FIRE FIGHTERS, No. 206, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Firefighters, No. 2 Fire Hall, President A. J. G. Lauder, 14509 - 101 Ave., Sec. Treas., J. Graham, 11947 - 92 St., Edmonton.

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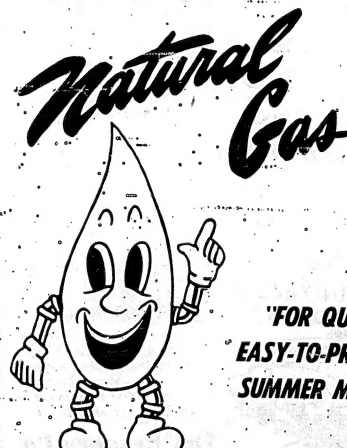
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